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### Jesus' Footsteps of Pain

#### Introduction

- In so many Bible passages, we are called to follow Jesus; but only in one passage "*His Footsteps!*" —  
1 Pet 2:21-23

The context is suffering.

His life was one of suffering and pain from the beginning to end—

#### Let's trace His footsteps of pain —

- He was not privileged to be born in the comfort of a home or a Hospital, but a cattleshed — not even a lodge!  
Lk 2:7
- He often lived without the comfort of a home —  
Mt 8:19,20 ... *foxes ... birds ...*  
No settled life!  
This is practised today by pioneer missionaries.  
How much we complain even over a small discomfort of a settled life!  
eg) Powercut, water shortage, sewage block, mosquito problem, monkey menace, etc.  
The spirit of complaining and irritation will spoil the fragrance of a Christian.
- In some houses, He was not shown even the basic gesture of hospitality —  
Lk 7:36 ... A Pharisee's house  
:40 ... He knew that Jesus was a Teacher  
:44-46 ... *no water ... no hug ... no oil*

How much we will be hurt if we are not treated properly in wedding parties or such functions!

How did Jesus overcome this hurt?

He concentrated on His primary mission —

vv48,50 ... Forgiven and saving the sinners

- As a travelling Preacher, and without regular meals, He often became hungry —

He would look up to trees for fruit!

At parties & dinners, He obviously must have eaten a lot —

Accusation: Glutton ...

Mt 11:19 ... i.e. *winebibber ... excessive drinker*

See His hint: "*I was hungry... I was homeless...*" (Mt 25:42,43)

- Even His burial was in a borrowed tomb —

Mt 27:57-60 ... *Joseph ... in his tomb*

How Christians reserve spots/spaces for burial!

#### 1. Pain of Scandal & Accusation

- His virgin birth was indirectly attacked —

Jn 8:41

The news of how He was born to a virgin would have been the gossip in the region for many many years.

- "*You are a Samaritan and have a demon.*"

Jn 8:48

"Samaritan" — *You are not doing the works of your father Abraham* (v39)

"Demon" — *You are of your father the devil* (v44)

By saying that Jesus was a "Samaritan," they were accusing Him that He was not walking strictly as a Jew!

- *You are not even fifty* (Jn 8:57)
  - i.e. You are inexperienced, a novice.
    - 50 was considered as the minimum age  
for any public service.
- *“He is out of His mind”* (Mk 3:21)
  - He is possessed not with an ordinary demon  
but Beelzebub, the Ruler of Demons! (v22)
  - We will be called even by worse names —  
Mt 10:25
  - We must not expect a better treatment —  
v24,25a ... *“Disciple/Teacher” “Servant/Master”*
- Along with accusation comes **mockery** —
  - *Prophesy!* (Mk 14:65) — Gift questioned
  - *Hail King!* (Mk 15:18-20)— Leadership challenged
  - *Save Yourself!* (Mk 15:29-31)— Ministry ridiculed

## 2. Pain of Rejection

- Mk 6:3,4 ... Rejection by His own countrymen & relatives
- Lk 20:17 ... Rejected stone becomes the *chief cornerstone*.
  - It does not happen immediately —
  - He had to be in the grave for 3 days! (Acts 2:26)
  - This was prophesied in Isa 53:3
- See the kind of person they preferred over Jesus —  
Lk 23:18,19 ... *Barabbas* — a notorious murderer!
- Actual name of Barabbas — “Jesus Barabbas!” (Bar-Abba)
- This was pointed out by Peter —  
Acts 3:14 ... *Holy One ... Just ... a murderer*
- The world rejects us not because they want someone better  
than us, but because they just do not want us!

- How to handle such a situation —  
Remember, *“it hated Him **before** it hates us”* (Jn 15:18)
- No man is fully accepted until he is totally rejected.  
But why does the world hate us? —  
*“without a cause!”* (v25)
- “But”** when the Comforter comes ... (v26)  
This is why the Holy Spirit is sent to us.

## 3. Pain of Loneliness

- No child of God, especially anyone in Christian leadership,  
can escape this pain.
- The supreme purpose for which Jesus chose the 12 —  
Mk 3:14 ... *that they might be with Him*
- Except when He wanted to spend time alone with His Father,  
He always took the disciples with Him.
  - He walked with them.
  - He worked with them.
  - He slept with them.
  - He ate with them.
- But when He wanted them most, they failed Him —  
Mt 26:38 ... *“watch WITH Me”*  
:40 ... *“watch WITH Me”*
- Already prophesied: Isa 59:16/63:5  
*He “wondered ... no one to help”*
- There may be times when we may not get one to at least  
pray with us. Folks would distance themselves because —  
either they hesitate to identify with our problem,  
or they have their own problems (Lk 22:44,45)
  - This was the situation on the Mount of  
Transfiguration also (Lk 9:30-32)  
(Peter & others ... *sorrow ... heavy with sleep*)

At such times, God will send His ministering Angels to help us —

Lk 22:43... May not to deliver us but to *strengthen* us (v44)

□ Another reason why folks desert us in crisis is that they become busy with their own agenda —

Lk 22:24... While He was talking about betrayal (v21), they went on with their “rivalry!”

This is called, “fishing in troubled waters!”

“*Wounds from friends*” (Zech 13:6)

• The pain of loneliness is not a joke —

You will suffer even from insomnia (Psa 102:7)

The pain of loneliness reaches its zenith when God Himself seems to desert us —

Mk 15:33,34 ... *darkness* ... 12 noon to 3 pm  
“*My God, My God, why... forsaken...?*”

Did God really “*forsake*” Jesus?

We do not exactly know it!

But Jesus, as a **human** being, felt so.

He cried, *My God, not My Father!* (First & Final cry)

At such times, read Psalm 77.

(This is not a Psalm of David but of Asaph, who was one of the three families set aside by David for music and prophesying. There are totally 12 Psalms attributed to this family) —

1 Chr 25:1,2; Psa 77:7,8,9 ?????? (6 questions)

*Selah!* (v9) — Better stop!

“*This is my anguish*” (v10a)

Where is God’s “way?”

a) *In the sanctuary* (v13) ... utter darkness

b) *In the sea* (v19) ... “*Footsteps*” not known!

c) *In the storm* (Nah 1:3b)

When we follow the “footsteps” of Jesus, it may be like a “journey into the unknown” —

Nevertheless, He will **lead** (v20)

Follow Him as long as you watch His footsteps; when His footsteps are not known, keep holding His hand; **He** will lead you!

• Read the Book of **Psalms** again and again.  
So many references to the sufferings of Christ —

□ *A worm* (22:6)

□ *Poor and needy* (40:17)

□ *A stranger to My brothers* (69:8)

□ *Full of heaviness* (69:20)

□ *Poor & sorrowful* (69:29)

□ *A sparrow on the housetop* (102:7)

□ *Withered like grass* (102:11)

#### ■ A corrective teaching necessary here:

Popular teaching of the day:

Christ suffered so we do not need to suffer.

But the Bible teaches otherwise —

□ Col 1:24 ... *sufferings ... fill up what’s lacking* ...

The cup of “*blessing*” is actually a cup of “*suffering!*” (Baptism of Suffering)

□ 2 Cor 4:8-10 ... *always carrying the dying* ...

□ Rom 8:36 ... *Killed all day long* ...

— With what? (v35) all types ...

Not chastisement due to sin (Psa 44:20-22).

No gain without pain!

- Even bodily sickness

eg) *thorn in flesh* (2 Cor 12:7)  
all for Christ's sake (v10)

Sometimes healing — many times enduring

- Lk 23:31 ... *Green Tree vs. Dry Wood*

### **Conclusion**

- Psa 17:14 ... Not satisfied/settled with earthly blessings  
:15 ... **But** ... "*awaking in Your **likeness!***"

1 Jn 3:2 ... *See Him as He is ... be **like** Him!*

In His footsteps!

